



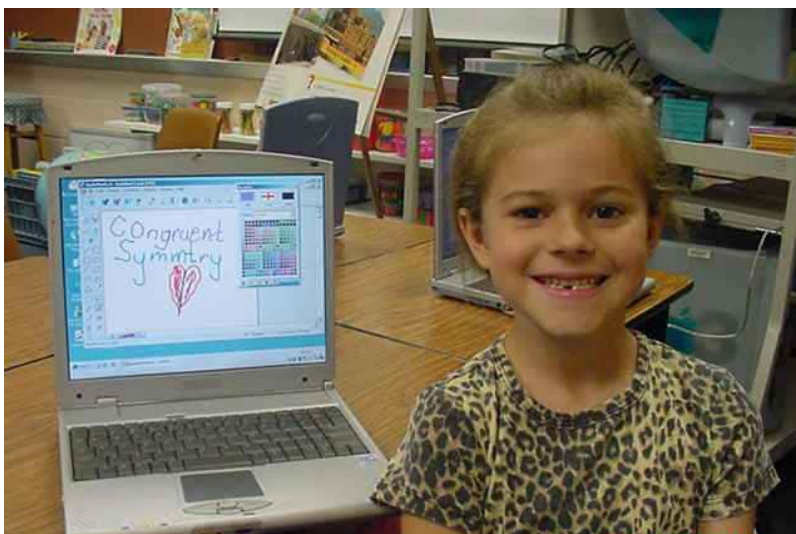
PARTNERSHIP FOR
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

21st Century Learning in Action



Success Stories
from Across
the Nation

Klein Independent School District: 21st Century Skills at All Levels



The leaders of the Klein Independent School District (ISD) in Texas set out to achieve a common goal: to ensure their students were equipped with technology skills to succeed in the workforce of the 21st century. In order to do this, district leaders needed to ensure that teachers could provide students with opportunities to learn the necessary skills, while still focusing on state curriculum requirements. To accomplish both goals, educators needed to learn not only how to use the appropriate hardware and software tools, but how to make those tools an integral part of teaching and learning in every classroom.

Klein ISD found ***Learning for the 21st Century: A Report and MILE Guide for 21st Century Skills*** to be a valuable guide as the district embarked on the process of meeting its technology and learning goals.

Klein ISD established a systematic approach to teacher technology professional development using concepts included in the Partnership's ***Six Key Elements of 21st Century Learning***. In this professional development model, Klein targets technology usage that is curriculum-driven and focused on a change in methodology rather than course content. Klein's technology professional development model established a network of full-time teachers to serve as technology mentors to help facilitate the teachers' mastery of technology integration. Klein ISD continues to have marked success with its technology professional development model.

"The teachers and students of our school district have all benefited from our district's inclusion of P21 concepts into our professional development. With this program, our educators are given the best opportunity to teach our students the 21st Century technology skills that they need at all levels. In Klein ISD it is not unusual to see first grade students using presentation and spreadsheet software to learn math concepts, or fifth grade students using database and word processing software to build a library of book reports. At the intermediate and high school levels students' use of technology tools grows in depth and complexity. The Internet is growing as a research tool across all grade levels as well as a tool for collaboration among a variety of student groups."

Ann McMullan, Executive Director of Educational Technology, Klein ISD

The Klein Independent School District is located in northwest Harris County, near Houston, Texas. The district has over 35,000 K-12 students and 2,500 teachers on 34 campuses. For more information on this 21st century skills success story, please visit their website at <http://www.kleinisd.net/>.



The Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership: A Sound Vision



The Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL) is a statewide project in California designed to help K-12 administrators provide informed and effective leadership in the use of technology to improve education.

The center is comprised of two components: a web portal and a cadre of practicing school administrators. The portal provides a carefully selected, annotated, and easily accessible set of technology leadership resources. Cadre members, each representing a different geographic region of their state, evaluate and contribute resources for the portal and provide face-to-face training for colleagues in their local areas.

Upon receiving the Partnership's report, ***Learning for the 21st Century***, TICAL distributed copies to school administrators enrolled in their technology leadership training programs. Administrators rely on the report to provide context and various perspectives on technology and education and, ultimately, help them develop and refine their own vision of what technology could and should be doing for students in their schools.

“A major aspect of TICAL’s work is to help school administrators develop a sound vision for technology. As soon as I saw Learning for the 21st Century, I knew it would be a valuable resource for us. We’ve distributed copies in our face-to-face training sessions and used it as a basis for discussion and reflection. And of course, we’ve added it to our TICAL resource database. The report is a succinct, practical treatment of ideas and information administrators need.”

Michael Simkins, Creative Director for TICAL

Santa Cruz County (CA) Office of Education provides the TICAL project under contract to the California Department of Education. The project expanded to the state of Arkansas in 2002 and has plans to add other states in the future. For more information on this 21st century skills success story, please visit http://www.portical.org/about_tical.html.

Digital Documentaries And Teaching Matters: 21st Century Skills In Action



Digital Documentaries is a professional development program within Teaching Matters that helps teachers to inspire their students to write and learn about local history and their community.

With the Digital Documentaries program, students can research, direct and produce their own videos which examine local issues or historical events. The unique program offers students and teachers with a creative, efficient way to meet social studies and language arts requirements for grades 5-12.

“Digital Documentaries is a great example of 21st century skills in action,” said Lynette Guastaferro, of Teaching Matters. “Throughout the process of researching, directing and producing their own documentary films, students are driven to think critically, analyze information, communicate and collaborate with others. We have seen it transform tough classrooms into engaged learning environments.”

Teaching Matters is a non-profit professional development organization that partners with educators to improve public schools. Teaching Matters uses technology in the classroom to prepare teachers and their students for 21st Century learning and achievement.

Digital Documentaries was created by Teaching Matters and is supported by the Bronx Borough President's office. The program is currently being implemented across 40 elementary, middle and high schools in the Bronx area. For more information on Teaching Matters please go to <http://www.tminet.org/>

The Forum for Youth Investment: Bringing 21st Century Skills to Work, College & Life



The Forum for Youth Investment is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping communities and the nation make sure all young people are ready by 21 – ready for work, college and life. The Forum produces products, provides training and technical assistance to those who work with and impact youth.

When the Partnership for 21st Century Skills issued its call to action report last year, the leaders of the Forum recognized that the report outlines the same goals that their organization works to achieve. The Forum began utilizing the report in many of its strategies – building in the report's recommendations into several papers, keynote presentations and workshops, and initiatives – recognizing that both organizations advocate for a common goal.

Karen Pittman, the Forum for Youth Investment's Executive Director, referred to the Partnership's work as follows:

“This is the business community saying, ‘Of course we want young people who can read, write, and do math. Those are critical skills, but we also need communication skills, the ability to adapt to rapidly changing environments, technology skills, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, the ability to collaborate, to work as partner teams, to have some sense of what’s going on in other parts of the world, to be critical, to be creative, and to have a commitment to make a difference.’ These are the range of skills that those in the business community say they need. These 21st century skills are supported by research and supported from a demand perspective. There’s an urgency here that we need to capitalize on.”

The Forum staff continues to leverage the Partnership's Report and MILE Guide with policymakers, researchers, practitioners, funders and business leaders around the country.

For more information on this 21st century skills success story, go to:
www.forumforyouthinvestment.org

Lower Merion School District: Tech Mentors



A few years ago, the Lower Merion School District (LMSD) in Pennsylvania, like other districts throughout the country, was trying to meet the challenge of ensuring that their educators had the most current technology skills needed to teach their students. During the program's development, the leaders reviewed a copy of The Partnership for 21st Century Skills "Learning for the 21st Century Skills" report and complement "Milestones for Improving Learning and Education (MILE)" guide. The organizers decided that the MILE guide contained key elements and they used the guide as part of the program's development.

Today, the district has fully implemented a unique program called "Tech Mentors" which makes use of the MILE guide that allows the meets the challenges they faced years ago. "Tech Mentors" is an example of 21st century learning - empowering teachers who are interested in technology to gain the knowledge they need to teach in their individual classrooms and also work with others in the teaching community as a whole.

"Mentors" enter the program through an application process to assess the scope of their technology usage and personal goals for the program. "Mentors" work in small, specific groups with their peers, developing courses that integrate technology with the standard curriculum. These groups meet frequently throughout the year, sharing stories and ideas and that help improve current methods and make the most use of current technology.

"The 'Tech Mentors' program developed using elements of the MILE guide, has been a huge success. We have already been asked by representatives for the National Education and Computing Conference and the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo & Conference to present our work as an example of a model for staff development."

Ginny DiMedio, Technology Director, LMSD

The Lower Merion School District (LMSD) located in Pennsylvania, serves both the residents of Lower Merion Township and the Borough of Narberth. It has 6,724 students throughout six elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools. For more information on this 21st century skills success story, please visit <http://www.lmsd.org>.